



Damaged boats lie on the land and water in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, Thursday, Sept. 29, 2022, in Fort Myers, Fla.

Associated Press

Ian lashes South Carolina as Florida surveys devastation

By MEG KINNARD and ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON
Associated Press

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — A revived Hurricane Ian battered coastal South Carolina on Friday, ripping apart piers and filling neighborhoods with calf-high water, after the deadly storm caused catastrophic damage in Florida and trapped thousands in their homes.

Ian's center came ashore near Georgetown with much weaker winds than when it crossed Florida's Gulf Coast on Wednesday as one of the strongest storms to ever hit the U.S. As it moved across South Carolina, Ian dropped from a hurricane to a post-tropical cyclone.

Sheets of rain whipped trees and power lines and

left many areas on Charleston's downtown peninsula under water. Four piers along the coast, including two at Myrtle Beach, collapsed into the churning waves and washed away. Online cameras showed seawater filling neighborhoods in Garden City to calf level.

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Minister of Culture gave a speech at UNESCO MondiaCult 2022



Tourism Product Enhancement Fund (TPEF) launches their website



ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE				WATER'S EDGE RESTAURANT & BAR	
MONDAY Angela Flores Violinist 6:30pm-8:30pm	TUESDAY Jean Paul Saxophonist 6:30pm-8:30pm	WEDNESDAY Eddie Kroon Singer 6:30pm-8:30pm	THURSDAY Marrybell Maduro Singer 6:30pm-8:30pm	Located at Costa Linda Beach Resort Tel +297 5838000 Ext 8106 All premium brands Elegant dining, spectacular ocean views enjoyed al fresco or in air conditioned comfort.	
FRIDAY Ricky Thomas Guitarist 7:00pm-9:00pm	SATURDAY Angela Flores Violinist 6:30pm-8:30pm	KARAOKE Happy Hour 9:00pm-11:00pm			

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Ian lashes South Carolina as Florida surveys devastation

Continued from Front

Ian left a broad swath of destruction in Florida, flooding areas on both of its coasts, tearing homes from their slabs, demolishing beachfront businesses and leaving more than 2 million people without power. At least nine people were confirmed dead in the U.S. — a number that was expected to increase as officials confirm more deaths and search for people.

Rescue crews piloted boats and waded through riverine streets Thursday to save thousands of people trapped amid flooded homes and shattered buildings.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said Friday that crews had gone door-to-door to over 3,000 homes in the hardest-hit areas.

"There's really been a Herculean effort," he said during a news conference in Tallahassee.

Among those killed were an 80-year-old woman and a 94-year-old man who relied on oxygen machines that stopped working amid power outages, as well as a 67-year-old man who was waiting to be rescued and fell into rising water inside his home, authorities said. Officials fear the death toll could rise substantially, given the wide territory swamped by the storm.

Florida Division of Emergen-



This photo provided by the Myrtle Beach Fire Dept., crews respond to rescue people who were trapped on the second floor due to flooding caused by Hurricane Ian, on Friday, Sept. 30, 2022 in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

cy Management Director Kevin Guthrie said responders have focused so far on "hasty" searches, aimed at emergency rescues and initial assessments, which will be followed by two additional waves of searches. Initial responders who come across possible remains are leaving them without confirming, he said Friday, describing as an example the case of a submerged home.

"The water was up over the rooftop, right, but we had a Coast Guard rescue

swimmer swim down into it and he could identify that it appeared to be human remains. We do not know exactly how many," Guthrie said.

Desperate to locate and rescue their loved ones, social media users shared phone numbers, addresses and photos of their family members and friends online for anyone who can check on them.

Orlando residents returned to flooded homes Friday, rolling up their pants to wade through muddy,

knee-high water in their streets. Friends of Ramon Rodriguez dropped off ice, bottled water and hot coffee at the entrance to his subdivision, where 10 of the 50 homes were flooded and the road looked like a lake. He had no power or food at his house, and his car was trapped by the water.

"There's water everywhere," Rodriguez said. "The situation here is pretty bad."

University of Central Florida students living at an apart-

ment complex near the Orlando campus arrived to retrieve possessions from their waterlogged units.

Deandra Smith, a nursing student, was asleep when others evacuated and stayed in her third-floor apartment with her dog. Other students helped get her to dry land Friday by pushing her through the flooded parking lot on a pontoon. She wasn't sure if she should go back to her parents home in South Florida or find a shelter so she can still attend classes. "I'm still trying to figure it out," she said.

The devastating storm surge destroyed many older homes on the barrier island of Sanibel, Florida, and gouged crevices into its sand dunes. Taller condominium buildings were intact but with the bottom floor blown out. Trees and utility poles were strewn everywhere.

Municipal rescuers, private teams and the Coast Guard used boats and helicopters Friday to evacuate residents who stayed for the storm and then were cut off from the mainland when a causeway collapsed.

Volunteers who went to the island on personal watercraft helped escort an elderly couple to an area where Coast Guard rescuers took them aboard a helicopter. □

Associated Press



President Joe Biden listens as first lady Jill Biden speaks during a reception in the East Room of the White House for Hispanic Heritage Month in Washington, Friday, Sept. 30, 2022.

Associated Press

By **DARLENE SUPERVILLE**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jill Biden told a Democratic

women's group Friday that Republicans underestimated the power of women but that, together, they will

Jill Biden: GOP leaders underestimate the power of women

"make sure that they never make that mistake again." The first lady said that when "extremists attack rights that a vast majority of Americans support, like a woman's right to choose, or when they stand in the way of affordable prescriptions or clean energy, they are letting down all Americans."

She also said "it makes me angry" to see politicians who "treat government like a sport" and "perform political stunts" to score a few more points against the other side.

"There are no teams to root for or against. Just people," Biden said at a luncheon during the Democratic National Committee's Women's Leadership Forum's annual conference.

"There are real lives at stake here. You know that, and I know that it makes you angry. It should make you angry," she said. She described new laws enacted by President Joe Biden as "some of the most transformational legislation in generations."

"And we did it with only 50 votes in the Senate," the

first lady said. "Just imagine what Joe and his administration could do with just a few more partners in the House and the Senate."

"We could restore women's rights to make our own choices about our own bodies," she said, referencing the decision by the Supreme Court's conservative majority to overturn the constitutional right to an abortion, leaving individual states to decide the issue. In response, the Republican Party said women are suffering in "Joe Biden's America." □

Justice Jackson makes Supreme Court debut in brief ceremony

By MARK SHERMAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson made her first appearance on the Supreme Court bench in a brief courtroom ceremony Friday, three days before the start of the high court's new term.

President Joe Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris and their spouses attended the invitation-only ceremonial investiture for Jackson, the first Black woman on the Supreme Court.

Chief Justice John Roberts wished the 52-year-old Jackson a "long and happy career in our common calling," the traditional welcome for a new justice.

She took her place at the far end of the bench to Roberts' left, just next to Justice Brett Kavanaugh. The justices are seated by seniority.

During the ceremony Jackson also followed the custom of every other new justice since 1972 and sat in a chair that once belonged to John Marshall, who served as chief justice for 34 years in the early 1800s. Marshall also was a slaveholder, perhaps adding a special poignancy to Jackson taking her place in his onetime possession. She is only the third Black justice in the court's history, along with her new colleague Justice Clarence Thomas and the late Justice Thurgood Marshall.

Friday's ceremony included the reading of the commission appointing Jackson to the court. She also repeated the oath she took when she formally joined the court in June, just after the retirement of Justice Stephen Breyer.

Breyer was among a courtroom filled with dignitaries, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and former Speaker Paul Ryan, a Jackson relative through marriage.

Jackson's parents, daughters, brother and in-laws had a front-row seat.

Several wives of current and former justices also attended, including Virginia "Ginni" Thomas.

Thomas was interviewed

Thursday by the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 insurrection.

Jackson was confirmed in April on a 53-47 vote in the Senate, with three Republican senators joining all Democrats to support her. Biden had pledged during his presidential campaign that he would nominate a Black woman to the Supreme Court.

Biden, Harris, first lady Jill Biden and second gentleman Doug Emhoff spent a few minutes with the justices before the court convened, court spokeswoman Patricia McCabe said.

The president said nothing during the five-minute, tightly scripted courtroom ceremony.

Back at the White House, Biden tweeted in praise of Jackson's "brilliant legal mind" and touted his record on filling judgeships.

"In fact, we've appointed 84 federal judges so far. No group of that many judges has been appointed as quickly, or been that diverse," Biden said.

Jackson and Roberts walked down the 36 front steps of the court for photos following the ceremony. They chatted briefly on the court plaza, and when Roberts departed, the justice's husband, Dr. Patrick Jackson, joined her.

"I'm so proud of you," Dr. Jackson said, as they embraced in front of a gathering of reporters and well-wishers.

Jackson is the first justice appointed by a Democratic president since Justice Elena Kagan joined the court in 2010.

Kagan was appointed by former President Barack Obama, who also appointed Justice Sonia Sotomayor in 2009.

It appeared Obama would get a third high court pick when Justice Antonin Scalia died in February 2016. But Senate Republicans refused to take up Obama's nomination of Merrick Garland, then serving as a federal appeals court judge. Garland, now Attorney General, also participated in Friday's ceremony.

Former President Donald



Ketanji Brown Jackson speaks during an event on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, April 8, 2022, celebrating the confirmation of Jackson as the first Black woman to reach the Supreme Court.

Associated Press

Trump eventually chose first of his three Supreme Court appointees, to fill Justice Neil Gorsuch, the Court appointees, to fill Scalia's seat. □



ANNOUNCEMENT

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In observance of the holy day of Yom Kippur all Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V. branches will be closed on
Wednesday October 5th, 2022.

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and may you be inscribed and sealed in the Book of Life.

Gun owners, rights groups challenge Connecticut firearms ban

By DAVE COLLINS

Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)

— Citing a U.S. Supreme Court decision earlier this year, gun rights groups and firearms owners have launched another attempt to overturn Connecticut's ban on certain semiautomatic rifles that was enacted in response to the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting.

A new lawsuit was filed Thursday in federal court by three gun owners, the Connecticut Citizens Defense League and the Second Amendment Foundation. They are seeking to overturn the state prohibition on what they call "modern sporting arms" such as AR-15-style rifles like the one used to kill 20 first-graders and six educators at the Newtown school in 2012.

"We all deserve to live in safe communities, but denying ownership of the most commonly owned firearms in the country is not the way to achieve it," Holly Sullivan, president of the Connecticut Citizens Defense League, said in a statement.

"The recent U.S. Supreme Court decision ... has opened the door to this challenge, and we believe



Firearms training unit Det. Barbara J. Mattson, of the Connecticut State Police, holds up a Bushmaster AR-15 rifle, the same make and model of gun used by Adam Lanza in the December 2012 Sandy Hook School shooting, during a hearing of a legislative subcommittee in Hartford, Conn., on Jan. 28, 2013.

Connecticut will be hard pressed to prove its statutes are constitutional," she said. State officials vowed to defend the 2013 gun laws.

"Connecticut's gun laws save lives, and we are not going back," state Attorney General William Tong said in a statement. "We will not allow weapons of

war back into our schools, our houses of worship, our grocery stores, and our communities. I will vigorously defend our laws against any and every one of these baseless challenges."

In June, the Supreme Court broadly expanded gun rights in a 6-3 ruling by the conservative majority that overturned a New York law

restricting carrying guns in public and affected a half-dozen other states with similar laws. After the ruling, New York and other states have moved to pass new gun restrictions that comply with the decision.

Gun rights groups had attempted to overturn Connecticut's ban on assault weapons before. But in

2016, the high court, with fewer conservative justices, rejected challenges to assault weapons bans in Connecticut in New York passed in response to the Sandy Hook shooting.

The plaintiffs in the new challenge include a female victim of domestic violence and two former state correctional officers who want to possess "modern sporting rifles for defensive purposes," the lawsuit says. Their lawyers include two Republican state representatives, Craig Fishbein of Wallingford and Doug Dubitsky of Chaplin.

The lawsuit was filed against Democratic Gov. Ned Lamont, public safety Commissioner James Rove and several state prosecutors.

Lamont said Friday the state gun law was passed to prevent "needless tragedy," had bipartisan support when it was approved and is overwhelmingly supported by state residents.

"We will vigorously defend these commonsense laws that are seeking to reduce violent crime and mass shootings," he said in a statement. "When it comes to the safety of the people of our state, we must stand up and do what is right." □

Associated Press

Vermont dispensaries to begin selling recreational marijuana

By LISA RATHKE

Associated Press

Vermont dispensaries are set to begin selling marijuana for recreational use,

though only three will be ready to do so on opening weekend.

FLORA Cannabis in Middlebury, Mountain Girl

Cannabis in Rutland and CeresMED in Burlington will all open on Saturday. A fourth business has been licensed to sell recreational pot but isn't ready to do so yet.

As happened with the roll-out of recreational marijuana sales in other states and in Canada, Vermont's inaugural weekend will be "more of a soft opening," as more product manufacturers and testing facilities come online and as more people harvest the plant, said James Pepper, chair of the state Cannabis Control Board.

Vermont will join 14 other states with legal adult-use cannabis sales, according to the Marijuana Policy Project. Four other states

Connecticut, New York, Rhode Island, and Virginia and Washington, D.C., have legalized the use of recreational marijuana, but sales haven't started there yet.

Vermont's Cannabis Control Board prioritized review and waived licensing fees for social equity applicants. Such applicants are Black or Hispanic, or from communities that historically have been disproportionately affected by cannabis being outlawed or who have been or had a family member who has been incarcerated for a cannabis-related offense.

More than 30 social equity applicants, mostly growers, have been approved, with Mountain Girl Cannabis,

owned by Ana and Josh MacDuff, being the first such retailer.

"For us it was really important to be first in Vermont, or one of the first," said Ana MacDuff, who is Hispanic.

The Vermont stores say they anticipate having enough supply, but some growers have been frustrated by the timeline.

The Cannabis Control Board was tasked with simultaneously forming regulations and reviewing applicants, and many growers anticipated that they would get licensed in May but didn't, said Bernardo Antonio, education director for the Vermont Growers Association, a trade group. □



Ana and Josh MacDuff, right, and their employees pose inside their new Mountain Girl Cannabis store, Thursday, Sept. 29, 2022, in Rutland, Vt.

Associated Press

EU adopts levy on excess energy profits, no gas price cap

By SAMUEL PETREQUIN and
LORNE COOK

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — European Union energy ministers on Friday adopted a package of measures to ease an energy crisis, including a levy on windfall profits of fossil fuel companies, but an agreement on capping natural gas prices that is supported by a majority of countries remained off the table.

With energy prices skyrocketing across Europe since Russia invaded Ukraine, the 27 EU countries reached a deal on proposals from the European Commission, which the bloc's executive arm said could help raise \$140 billion in relief for people and businesses hit by the crunch.

They backed a levy of at least 33% on the surplus profits of companies producing or refining oil, natural gas and coal. The two other main measures are a temporary cap on the revenue of low-cost electricity generators such as wind, solar and nuclear companies, as well as an obligation for EU countries to reduce electricity consumption by at least 5% during peak price hours.

Countries will be able to distribute the surplus money



Germany Climate Action Minister Robert Habeck, center, speaks with Hungary's Foreign Minister Peter Szijarto, left, and Netherland's Climate and Energy Minister Rob Jetten during a meeting of EU energy ministers in Brussels on Friday, Sept. 30, 2022.

Associated Press

from the temporary revenue cap to households and small and medium businesses that have been hit hard. Rising energy prices are fueling inflation, which hit a record 10% this month in the 19 countries that use the euro, pushing Europe closer to recession and eroding people's spending power.

The three measures approved Friday should be adopted next week and

take effect soon afterward. Estonian Economic Affairs and Infrastructure Minister Riina Sikkut said that "the most promising measure to actually bring down the average price is still the reduction of peak consumption." Sikkut underlined that any hardship this winter will be nothing compared with the price being paid by Ukrainians.

"We can't forget that we are in a situation of war.

Ukrainians are paying with their lives, so we temporarily may pay higher bills or prices in the food store," she said.

The measures, however, will not have an immediate effect on the natural gas prices that have been running wild as Russia reduced its supplies to Europe in what European officials call blackmail for their support of Ukraine and sanctions against Moscow. Natural

gas is used to heat homes, generate electricity and run factories.

"This is an immediate patch," said Czech Industry and Trade Minister Jozef Sikela, who chaired the meeting in Brussels. "We need to continue our work. We are in an energy war with Russia, which also strongly affects our industry. Further urgent and coordinated EU action is needed."

According to the European Commission, Russian gas supplies to the EU declined by 37% between January and August this year.

Sikela said most of the energy ministers insisted on the urgent need for stabilizing the electricity market, notably by limiting the price of wholesale gas and its impact on electricity prices in the bloc. He also insisted on the need to accelerate common gas purchases.

A group of 15 member countries urged the European Commission to propose a cap on gas prices as soon as possible to help households and businesses struggling to make ends meet.

The proposal was discussed during Friday's meeting but has yet to gather unanimous support, with Germany notably blocking. □

Pakistan launches anti-harassment hotline for trans people

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan on Friday launched a hotline for transgender people in an effort to protect them from discrimination and harassment, a senior government official said.

Trans people in Pakistan are considered outcasts by many, especially in conservative areas in the country, where they are often sexually abused, assaulted and even murdered. They also hesitate to enroll in regular schools to avoid discrimination.

Salman Sufi, an adviser to Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, said in a tweet that the much-awaited hotline for the protection of trans

people from discrimination and harassment had been set up and was live.

The hotline is connected to top police officers and the Ministry of Human Rights, he said.

"We are glad that this so-called hotline has been set up for us," Almas Bobby, a spokesperson for transgender people in Pakistan, told The Associated Press by phone. Bobby said in most cases of harassment, trans people are either beaten, arrested or publicly harassed by police across the country.

"How can we call on this hotline when our phones are snatched? When we are arrested like

a robber from wedding parties where we have to perform and earn? Who harasses us the most?" Bobby said. "Yes, indeed, the police. And we will have to call the police to seek justice."

The hotline comes as the government tries to pass an amendment in its transgender rights bill, which will let trans people choose their gender identity for previously issued government documents, educational certificates and national identity cards.

But the proposed amendments have caused controversy, with hardline clerics opposing them.

Although Pakistan has in

recent years made some progress on transgender rights in the Muslim-majority country, human rights ex-

perts say a lot is still to be done to ensure recognition of trans people on a social level. □



Pakistani transgender persons hold a demonstration demanding for their basic rights, in Hyderabad, Pakistan, Friday, Sept. 30, 2022.

Associated Press

Experts: Mexico jeopardizes justice in missing students case

By **MARÍA VERZA**

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A group of international experts investigating the 2014 disappearance of 43 students in southern Mexico denounced the attorney general Thursday, saying he engaged in "improper interference" and created "obstacles" to justice, apparently in a rush to show results.

The Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts was created by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to investigate the Sept. 26, 2014, abduction and forced disappearance of students from the Ayotzinapa teachers' college in the state of Guerrero.

Group members at a news conference also raised doubts about some evidence included in a report last month from the government Truth Commission investigating the case.

They also said there is additional evidence of the close relationship between the military and a local drug gang that have both been implicated in the students' disappearance in the city of Iguala.

They spoke just two days after the special prosecutor who had led the government's investigation since



Demonstrators post signs of the missing 43 Ayotzinapa college students on a security barricade ringing the National Palace, during a march in Mexico City, Monday, Sept. 26, 2022, on the day of the anniversary of the disappearance of the students in Iguala, Guerrero state.

Associated Press

2019 resigned.

The experts said Omar Gómez Trejo quit after his independent work was blocked by Attorney General Alejandro Gertz Manero. Ángela Buitrago, one of the experts, said Gómez Trejo was not willing to follow orders "that have no justification."

Among examples of the purported "improper interference," the group mentioned the cancellation without explanation of 21 arrest orders announced previously by the Attorney

General's Office, including for 16 members of the military. Claudia Paz, another of the experts, said the withdrawal of those arrest orders did not conform with the rule of law.

The experts also said the rush to charge former Attorney General Jesús Murillo Karam, who was in office when the students disappeared, with manufacturing the previous administration's account of what happened could ultimately jeopardize the case against him.

Such practices lead one to think "there was an attempt to synchronize judicial times with political times ... that came from the attorney general of the republic," said Francisco Cox, another member of the group. The evidence of close contact between the military and the local drug gang in Iguala continues to grow. However, group members said they continued to be denied military intelligence, even though President Andrés Manuel López Obrador ordered the

armed forces to give them full access to the archives. Paz said some of the evidence implicating the military came from the United States in the form of intercepted communications obtained for a case in Illinois dealing with drug trafficking from Iguala to Chicago.

Among them were 12 conversations about jobs done together by criminals and military personnel or meals organized by criminals for members of the military. Some of the military members mentioned in those conversations are in custody there are four but others are not.

The Truth Commission's report in August included new information about the military's involvement in the disappearances, including screen captures of messages indicating that military personnel allegedly gave the order to kill some of the students and hid their remains.

The experts on Thursday raised doubts about those messages, which they said were written very differently from those intercepted by U.S. authorities. They said they had asked an independent expert to analyze all of the information, which was only shared with them recently. □

French Catholic Church starts compensating sex abuse victims

PARIS (AP) — France's Catholic Church has paid financial compensation to 23 victims of child sexual abuse by priests or other church representatives under a recently launched reparation process, the body in charge of compensation decisions said Friday.

Representatives of the Independent National Authority for Recognition and Reparation said during a news conference that over 1,000 victims have come forward to claim compensation since the body was established this year.

France's Catholic bishops' conference agreed to provide reparations after

a report issued last year revealed a large number of child sex abuse cases.

Some 60 reparation decisions have been made,

out of which 45 include financial compensation that range from 8,000 to 60,000 euros (\$7,806 to 58,548), the INIRR said. It said 23 people

have received the money. At the request of victims, reparations also may include non-financial support such as discussion groups, art therapy and meeting with local church representatives, according to Marie Derain de Vaucresson, the authority's president.

The reparation process requires long discussions with the applicants and cases are examined individually, which is why it's taking time, she said.

"We need that time to hear people, to understand their situation while respecting what they want to say and also paying attention not to reactivate traumas and expose them to difficulties,

when the goal is rather to help them heal," she said.

Florence Hermite, a member of the 10-person decision body, said a series of criteria determine the amount of financial compensation. They include the number of occasions and the duration of sexual abuse, the age of the victim at the time, the ongoing effects of past abuse and the degree of Catholic Church negligence.

The broad study released last year by an independent commission estimated that some 330,000 children were sexually abused over 70 years by priests or other church-related figures in France. □



Bishops kneel outside the Notre-Dame-du-Rosaire basilica in Lourdes, southwestern France, Saturday, Nov. 6, 2021.

Associated Press

Anti-drug foundation of Aruba, FADA with “crazy dress” week in October

ORANJESTAD – In the month of October, we celebrate the much awaited week of wearing a red ribbon, organized for more than 25 years already by Anti-drug foundation of Aruba, FADA. This was started by families of members of the DEA who investigated cases of drugs and illicit trafficking, among others.

Rulienne Arends, prevention worker at FADA explained that after four years of undercover investigations, one of the agents was captured and murdered. Their family came up with a way to remember this person, who made a lot of effort in the war against addiction. Their friends and family started wearing a red ribbon, and the action expanded and during the years, spread to other countries.

FADA joined this action more than 25 years ago, where they also wear the red ribbon. FADA has also been organizing for ten years already the famous “crazy dress” week, where the organizers of the red ribbon event choose a slogan, and various schools participate to create the winning slogan. This year’s slogan is “Celebrate Life, Live Drug Free”.

Arends also explained that many schools, teachers and students participate in this. During the years, families and companies are also participating. However, during the Covid-19 pandemic, they weren’t sure how the campaign could go on; but many families still participated, and each year the activity is growing.

“If the kids understand why they are participating in the crazy dress week, we have to say that a few years ago FADA had an activity and we delivered this to primary schools, teachers received a book on what the crazy dress week



and the red ribbon week are, so that they can explain it to the children”, Arends said.

Many children understand why they come to school with colorful socks or are allowed to come to school in their pajamas. And little by little this creates awareness in the community to understand the meaning behind this campaign.

Miosotis Tromp, a social worker at FADA, expressed that for many weeks already they are noting a lot of interest in the red ribbon week as well as the crazy dress week. The date for these activities will be from the 24th of October until the 28th of October. It will begin the first day with wearing a red article. On the 25th, wear pajamas or your favorite hero’s costume; on the 26th, wear colorful socks; on the 27th, there is the opportunity to do something creative with your hair; and the last day, the 28th of October, seeing as they are celebrating 10 years, each participant can create a positive slogan, that



will be used the following year.

People who are interested in participating in these activities can go on the website www.fada.aw, where they can find the red ribbon banner. Click on it and fill in the form and upload your pictures to participate.

Because of Covid-19, the past two years the foundation was not able to hand out prizes, but this year, Tromp said that they are having a big celebration with the community. The goal is to create awareness in the community, but also to show support in a different, creative way. The foundation is handing out prizes in various categories. “If you feel like you want to participate in the crazy dress week, one day alone can make a difference, makes us very happy. If you have any questions, please contact us”, Tromp said.

This activity is open to anyone who wants to participate with creativity. □

Minister of Culture gave a speech at UNESCO MondiaCult 2022

ORANJESTAD – Thursday afternoon, minister of Culture, Xiomara Maduro gave a virtual speech during UNESCO’s world conference on policy and sustainable development of culture, MondiaCult 2022 which took place in Mexico.

“President of the MondiaCult 2022, Assistant Director-General for culture of UNESCO, my colleagues, Ministers of Culture of all over the world, distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, Mr. President, on behalf of the Government of Aruba, I congratulate Mexico for organizing and hosting this important event. The eyes of the world are on Culture and rightfully so since Culture has the power to determine the development of humanity.

“Culture is among others the manifestation of ideas, human intellectual and creative achievement, social behavior, and customs that are widely influenced by education in all forms and catalyzed by technology and world scientific advances.

“The recent global events like the Covid-19 pandemic, natural disasters, and geo-political conflicts have shown communities all over the world the urgency in building resilience and putting serious effort in our ambitions regarding sustainable development.

“Aruba is a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) or a Large Ocean State depending on your conceptual view. The vulnerabilities

in both cases are generally known. In Aruba we have chosen to embrace our challenges and to focus on the advantages that Culture can provide. I hereby give some examples: Concrete measures are being taken to bring Culture education in the formal and non-formal education as well in the society as a whole.

Through research aimed at providing insight into the needs of artists and creatives, we try to use effective and meaningful instruments to support the creative sector.

The preservation of documentary heritage has seen a huge leap in the past two years. Documentary heritage that is accessible to a wide audience contributes to social discussion about



the past in relation to the future and can be a source of inspiration for creative expression.

“We should make continuous efforts to show the importance of a balanced society where culture is sustained as a mean of education and of sustainable development in our way of doing business and the way we live. Thus, the time is always right to educate,

preserve and stimulate a forward-looking approach in which culture enables innovation, behavioral change and economic growth.

“Mr. President, I thank UNESCO for this opportunity and reiterate our commitment in Aruba to put culture at the heart of sustainable development. Masha danki, Thank you, Merci Beaucoup, Muchas Gracias!” □

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NOORD— Paseo Herencia offers a variety of shopping, dining and entertainment options in an outdoor center located in the heart of Palm Beach – walking distance from the high-rise hotels.

Shopping

The Paseo Herencia stores offer a great collection in beach wear, clothing, perfume, shoes, jewelry, souvenirs and much more. Pamper yourself by visiting Maggy's and enjoy their salon services and shop for your favorite beauty products. Aruba Aloe has that perfect gift to bring back home, all made with natural ingredients. Other brand favorites are Tommy Hilfiger, Calvin Klein, Aldo, Carmen Steffens, Nike store, Pandora and many more.

Restaurants

Start with a breakfast meal at Paseo Herencia offering unique breakfast options such as Drunk's Denial with their Make it Your Own Crêpe Bar offering sweet and savory crêpe flavors and the option to booze it up with their Mimosa crêpe (mandarin soaked in champagne), Pina Colada (pineapples in coconut rum), Bourbon Apple, Brandy Apricot, Whiskey Pear and more. Location can be found by following the bakery smell upon arrival. Another option is Seabarita offering you delicious breakfast options ranging from Huevos Rancheros to empanadas surrounded by a cozy picnic setting with streetside view. Go Argentinian style at Che Bar and try their delicious omelet with chorizo/ham, mozzarella, onions, peppers, and tomatoes served with skillet potatoes and toast. Looking for something for the whole family? Visit TGI Fridays and choose between waffle, omelets, breakfast sandwiches and tacos starting at \$8. These restaurants are also open for lunch & dinner offering you a variety of cuisine choices. If you're looking for more unique concepts, join us for dinner at Xixon Restaurant greatly known in Miami for their Spanish inspired dishes with top notch flavors and the largest wine variety or visit The Lazy Turtle and try their exotic African dish "Kuvuta Kuku" accompanied by their tasty lazy cocktails. Coming for drinks? Sip and have a good time at the Bulldog Aruba lo-



cated in the center of the Plaza. Open till late.

VIP Cinema

Visit the one-of-a-kind Caribbean Cinemas VIP on the second floor of Paseo Herencia and enjoy your favorite movies in the most comfortable reclining seats with high quality screens with the latest projection and 7.1 Dolby surround sound and not to forget their delicious buttery bag of popcorn.

Entertainment

Catch live shows from Monday to Thursday and Sunday at 8pm on the Paseo center stage and the nightly water shows at

7:30pm, 8:30pm and 9:30pm. Looking for some adrenaline? Visit the Airsoft experience located behind The Lazy Turtle. Snap Instagramable pictures at the Angel Wings located between Pandora and Free Spirit or the Flying mosaic hearts located behind King Churros.

Parking up to two hours is free when shopping, dining or catching a movie at Paseo Herencia. Just present your purchase receipt at our parking cashier.

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Honoring of loyal visitors at Aruba Marriot Resort & Stellaris Casino



EAGLE BEACH - Recently, Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure in honoring many loyal Aruba visitors with their distinctive certificates. These certificates are a way to say "Masha Danki" for continuously choosing Aruba as a favorite vacation destination. The titles are as fol-

lowing: 10+ years "Distinguished Visitor", 20+ years "Goodwill Ambassador" and 36+ years "Emerald Ambassador".

The honorees were Keith and Winnie Stoldt, residents of New York, United States who were honored as Goodwill Ambassadors

of Aruba. This honoring was extra special because Mr. and Mrs. Stoldt were also celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.

Congratulations to the wonderful couple on behalf of the Aruba Today team, we wish you many more years of love and happiness in your marriage.

This symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between the 10-20-35 and more consecutive year mark.

The couple loves coming to the island for it's great weather, the friendly and helpful staff, the great restaurants, the safety, the beautiful beaches and the feasibility of being able to tour the beautiful paradise.

The Aruba Tourism Authority representative together with the representatives of Aruba Marriot Resort & Stellaris Casino presented the certificates to the honorees, handed over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □



Consumer Price Index, base period June 2019

Table 1 Overview percentage change of the CPI

	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22
Index	98.84	99.24	99.31	99.90	100.60	100.07	100.44	101.47	102.16	102.49	103.26	104.46	106.43
Monthly	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.6	0.7	-0.5	0.4	1.0	0.7	0.3	0.7	1.2	1.9
Year-to-date	1.8	2.2	2.3	2.9	3.6	-0.5	-0.2	0.9	1.5	1.9	2.6	3.8	5.8
End of period	1.4	2.2	2.4	3.1	3.6	3.3	3.5	4.0	4.7	5.2	5.3	6.0	7.7
Period average	-1.1	-0.7	-0.3	0.2	0.7	1.2	1.7	2.1	2.6	3.0	3.4	3.7	4.3
Goods	0.4	0.9	-0.7	0.7	1.4	-0.6	0.1	1.6	0.8	0.8	1.3	1.6	3.2
Services	0.2	-0.2	1.1	0.5	-0.2	-0.5	0.7	0.2	0.5	-0.4	0.0	0.5	0.1
CPIC	-1.3	-1.2	-0.9	-0.7	-0.3	0.1	0.5	0.8	1.2	1.7	2.0	2.2	2.5
Energy	0.6	2.0	3.4	5.1	6.7	7.5	8.2	8.7	8.8	8.7	9.0	9.5	10.8
Food	-2.1	-1.7	-1.4	-0.9	-0.3	0.4	1.2	2.0	3.0	4.0	5.1	6.1	7.1
1 adult	2,294	2,304	2,311	2,331	2,337	2,343	2,348	2,372	2,382	2,403	2,414	2,440	2,513
2 adults + 2 children	4,817	4,839	4,854	4,896	4,907	4,920	4,931	4,980	5,003	5,046	5,070	5,124	5,278

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

The Central Bureau of Statistics presents the most important findings for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the month of August 2022.

Consumer Price Index for the month of August 2022

The CPI for August 2022 is 106.43, an increase of 1.9% compared to the index of July 2022 (104.46) and accumulating an increase of 5.8% up to and including August of this year. The percentage change of the CPI over the last twelve (12) months (August 2021 to August 2022) is 7.7, an increase of 6.3 percentage points (ppts) compared to the percentage change for the same period of last year (1.4%).

The period average (last 24 months) percentage change of the CPI for the periods August 2020 to August 2021 and August 2021 to August 2022 is 4.3%, an increase of 5.4 ppts compared to the period average percentage change over the periods August 2019 to August 2020 and August 2020 to August 2021 (-1.1%).

During this month, seven (7) of the twelve (12) sectors registered increases in prices. The increases that had the greatest influence on the CPI were registered for the "Housing" (9.7%) and "Household operation" (4.5%) sectors, which contributed with an effect of 2.32 and 0.40 ppts, respectively. The increases in the remaining sectors had an effect of 0.30 ppts on the CPI of August 2022. Aforementioned increases were partially offset mainly by a decrease in the index for the "Transport" (-6.0%) sector, causing an effect of -0.94 ppts. The decreases in the remaining sectors had an effect of -0.19 ppts on the CPI of August 2022.

The increase in the "Housing" sector was mainly due to increases in the categories "Electricity, gas and other fuels" (21.8%) and "Water supply and miscellaneous services relating to the dwelling" (17.3%), which contributed to an effect of respectively, 1.59 and 0.79 ppts. The increase in the "Household operation" sector was mainly due

to increases in the categories "Furniture, furnishings, carpets and other floor coverings" (23.0%) and "Household appliances" (6.6%), which contributed to an effect of 0.21 and 0.16 ppts, respectively.

The decrease in the "Transport" sector was mainly due to a decrease in the category "Operation of personal transport equipment" (-8.9%), which contributed to an effect of -0.90 ppts.

Consumption basket

The consumption basket of the CPI consists of 408 goods and services. Compared to July 2022, 56.9% of these products had an increase in price, causing an effect of 3.47 ppts, while 26.0% showed a decrease, contributing to an effect of -1.58 ppts and the remaining 17.2% had no change in price. The prices of goods increased by 3.2% and caused an influence of 1.86 ppts. The prices of services increased by 0.1% had an influence of 0.03 ppts on the CPI of August 2022.

Core inflation

The CPIC (core inflation)

- CPI excluding the effect of energy and food - was 2.5% in August 2022. The energy index - which consists of the products: electricity, water, gasoline and diesel - was 10.8%. The food index showed an increase of 7.1%.

Subsistence level

The subsistence level for a household consisting of two (2) adults and two (2) children (aged 0-14 years) in August 2022 is Afl. 5,278, an increase of Afl. 461 compared to August 2021 (Afl. 4,817). The subsistence level for a single adult household is Afl. 2,513, an increase of Afl. 219 compared to August 2021 (Afl. 2,294).

Change in prices of crude oil, utilities, gasoline and diesel in August 2022

The prices of utilities (electricity and water), gasoline and diesel are for the greater part determined by international crude oil prices. In August 2022 the average price per barrel of crude oil (US\$ 93.74) had a decrease of US\$ 9.47 (-9.2%) compared to July 2022 (US\$ 103.21).

The cost-price of electricity and water in Aruba is mainly based on the price of Heavy fuel oil (HFO). To minimize the risks of spikes in the price of HFO and stabilize the tariffs of electricity and water for extended periods of time, a hedging strategy was developed by the Water-energiebedrijf Aruba N.V. (WEB). Hedging was used until 2021. It was announced in July 2022, that new tariffs for electricity and water would be introduced, starting August 2022. Subsequently, the average electricity price per household increased by 22.7% from Afl. 240.09 to Afl. 294.56 and had an effect of 1.59 ppts, while the average price of water per household increased by 22.4% from Afl. 137.05 to Afl. 167.75 and had an effect of 0.79 ppts on the CPI of August.

In August 2022 the price of gasoline registered a de-

crease of Afl. 42.50 cents (-12.7%) and had an effect of -0.84 ppts on the CPI. The price of diesel registered a decrease of Afl. 34.20 cents (-10.9%) and had an effect of -0.05 ppts on the CPI of August 2022.

In August 2022, utilities, gasoline and diesel as a group showed an increase in price of 8.4% compared to July 2022, and had an influence of 1.49 ppts on the CPI, while the remaining 404 goods and services, as a group, show an increase of 0.5% and had an effect of 0.40 ppts on the CPI.

Change in prices of Food & catering services in August 2022

The "Food & catering services" index showed an increase of 1.4% in August 2022, after an increase of 0.7% in July 2022. The index for "Food at home" showed an increase of 1.6% in August, as ten (10) of the eleven (11) "Food at home" indices increased in August 2022. The "Vegetables" index registered the largest increase (5.8%) in August 2022. Furthermore, other significant increases were posted in the indices for "Fish and other seafood" (2.2%), "Meat" (1.9%), "Fruit" (1.8%), "Milk, cheese and eggs" (1.4%) and "Sugar, jam, honey and other confectionery" (1.4%).

The only decrease was registered in the index of "Potatoes and other tubers" (-4.6%).

Over the last twelve (12) months, the "Food & catering services" has increased by 10.3%. The "Food at home" index showed an increase of 12.1%, where all of the "Food at home" indices increased over the last year. The "Oils and fats" index increased by 16.8%, the largest increase among the "Food at home" food groups. Furthermore, other significant increases were posted in the indices for "Fruit" (16.4%), "Meat" (16.2%), "Milk, cheese and eggs" (12.7%), "Fish and other seafood" (12.4%) and "Vegetables" (11.7%).

Table 2 Percentage change by sector

Sector	Weight coefficient	Effect Jul - Aug	Percentage changes			
			Monthly Jul - Aug	Year-to-date Dec - Aug	End of period Aug 21 - Aug 22	Period average Aug 21 - Aug 22
CPI	10,000.0	1.89	1.9	5.8	7.7	4.3
01. Food and non-alcoholic beverages	1,087.7	0.19	1.6	9.0	12.1	6.8
02. Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	78.2	0.00	0.3	3.3	4.9	2.7
03. Clothing and footwear	276.8	-0.05	-2.2	-4.1	3.2	4.6
04. Housing	2,522.2	2.32	9.7	10.6	10.1	1.3
05. Household operation	929.2	0.40	4.5	1.3	8.5	4.0
06. Health	223.1	0.06	3.0	3.7	4.7	-0.7
07. Transport	1,257.4	-0.94	-6.0	16.4	17.8	16.8
08. Communications	849.6	-0.03	-0.4	-1.8	-2.0	-1.0
09. Recreation and culture	1,013.3	-0.10	-1.1	-1.9	2.7	2.2
10. Education	98.0	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.2
11. Restaurants and hotels	442.0	0.04	0.8	4.5	4.0	4.0
12. Miscellaneous goods and services	1,222.6	0.01	0.1	0.4	1.7	1.9

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

Tourism Product Enhancement Fund (TPEF) launches their website

ORANJESTAD – Thursday night at Tierra del Sol, in a good ambiance, TPEF launched their website for the first time in history. This took place in the presence of the prime minister of Aruba, Evelyn Wever-Croes, minister of Tourism, Dangui Oduber and other ministers, members of parliament, board of TPEF and other stakeholders in the tourism industry.

According to a press release, this website shows the policy of minister Oduber, with each aspect seeing innovation through technology.

TPEF was founded in 2010. It is a fund that was created with the purpose of investing in projects that contribute to improve the touristic product of Aruba. The portfolio in which TPEF invests for projects consists of six categories. These are: Attraction, Security, Environment, Heritage, Awareness and Investment.

TPEF has always worked on the basis of the system of Good Corporate Governance. Ever since the establishment of TPEF, particularly in the last five days, the organization was able to realize a great amount of projects through the



ministry of Tourism. Projects which stood out the most for TPEF are, among others,

the boardwalk at Malmok, stairs and huts at Hooiberg, the pier at Rodgers Beach,

keeping our coasts clean, and the Stimami Sterilisami campaign – a massive spay and neuter campaign for stray dogs and cats on the island.



Now with the new website, www.tpef.aw, everyone can see all the projects realized by TPEF.

Those who have an idea they want to realize and need funds to implement it can make a petition for this on the website itself, as long as the idea falls in one of the six categories of the above mentioned portfolio.

All information necessary, as well as the options on the right people to contact for questions are also indicated right on the website.

Minister Dangui Oduber said to be very impressed with the website, as he is sure it will facilitate the entire process to receive funds from TPEF.

To finalize, minister Oduber congratulated the board of TPEF, lead by Mr. Mario Arends. A special thanks to Mrs. Sharlyze Romano who is the Project Manager for TPEF for this historical achievement.

Tourism remains the main driver of the economy of Aruba, and this is why it is important to keep investing in the improvement of the product Aruba. □



Digital minister aims to wrest Japan out of analog doldrums



Japan's Digital Agency Minister Taro Kono is seen on Sept. 20, 2021. The Digital Agency was set up in Japan 2021 to nurture competitiveness in digital technology.

Associated Press

By YURI KAGEYAMA
Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — The politician tapped to help Japan keep pace with the digital age has his work cut out for him.

After all, the nation known for Nintendo games, Lexus sportscars and other gadgetry galore also loves the fax machine and the traditional "hanko" seals that work as analog signatures. But Digital Minister Taro Kono has a reputation for no-nonsense action and for defying vested interests in high places.

"I have no intention of playing coordinator," he told reporters in a small briefing that was, aptly, conducted online Friday.

"If people don't listen, I am going to beat them up," he added with a laugh.

Japan ranked 28th among

64 nations in digital competitiveness in 2021, little changed from five years before, according to a study by IMD, a Swiss-based independent academic organization, which looked at how well equipped nations are to encourage technological development and to leverage them for the future. The U.S. was No. 1, China No. 15. Kono, a former foreign minister and defense minister, has flaunted his digital savvy for years.

Kono's Japanese Twitter account, which has drawn 2.5 million followers, features everything from a bowling video to policy commentary. Fluent in

English, having attended Georgetown University, he also has an English Twitter account with 70,000 followers.

In a YouTube video last month, he urged people to get a My Number Card, a digital identity card for Japanese citizens and residents that they can use for online government applications and link to a driver's license, library card or online banking.

But Kono knows it will take more than social media stardom to wrest Japan out of its analog doldrums. He noted the endeavor doesn't have to be complicated; people will naturally choose what's convenient. "Even a child knows that a seal doesn't really work as personal identification," he said, while adding that he loves Japanese seals as craftwork.

"There is a mindset that it's someone else's problem," he said of society's complacency.

During the coronavirus pandemic, when remote working became widespread around the world, Japanese realized how far behind they had fallen, Kono said.

The Digital Agency was set up in Japan last year to nurture competitiveness in digital technology.

Some skepticism remains. Critics say the idea of "a digital transformation" is already outdated and

only Japan is still talking so much about it.

In 2018, the minister in charge of cybersecurity, Yoshitaka Sakurada, became a target of ridicule when he didn't know what a USB port was.

Yet technology experts have pinned great hopes for what Kono might achieve. Kono has always stood apart among ruling Liberal Democratic Party lawmakers. His father was a prominent lawmaker known as a maverick. His grandfather was also a legendary politician.

And rock the boat is what Kono needs to do.

His agency has shown by example by becoming more open and diverse, adding people from the private sector and other walks of life who may have ideas on the change Japan so critically needs.

What will be his benchmark measure for success? "When there are smiles everywhere," Kono said. □



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Assistant Director
Xiomara Arends

Editors
Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette Figueroa

Sales
Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds
classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection
accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website
Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
E: news@arubatoday.com
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Explainer: Tua Tagovailoa, fencing response and NFL protocol

By **ROB MAADDI** AP Pro Football Writer

Tua Tagovailoa stumbled to the ground, his legs wobbly and unable to walk to the huddle after banging his head Sunday. And then Thursday night, he was carried off the field by stretcher after another hit caused his head to violently slam against the turf and his hands to freeze up.

The Dolphins said the third-year quarterback was conscious and had movement in all his extremities. He was taken to University of Cincinnati Medical Center but was released and expected to return to Miami with the team.

"It was a scary moment. He was evaluated for a concussion and he's in the concussion protocol," Dolphins coach Mike McDaniel said. Some who watched the scary injury want to know why Tagovailoa was playing just four days after his quick return Sunday prompted a joint review by the NFL and NFL Players Association.

Many former players were critical of the decision to allow Tagovailoa to return against Buffalo and start against Cincinnati.

"Player health and safety is at the core of the union's mission," the NFLPA wrote on Twitter. "Our concern tonight is for Tua and we hope for a full and speedy recovery. Our investigation into the potential protocol violation is ongoing."

NFL executive vice president Jeff Miller said the re-



Miami Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa is examined during the first half of the team's NFL football game against the Cincinnati Bengals, Thursday, Sept. 29, 2022, in Cincinnati.

Associated Press

view usually takes a week or two.

"Every indication from our perspective is that it was," Miller said about the team and its doctors following concussion protocol on Sunday. "I know the player, the coach and others have spoken to this. And we are engaged in that review now. So we'll come back with a formal answer to that question, something that we want to engage in." Before the game, Chris Nowinski, a founder of the Concussion Legacy Foundation who played football at Harvard, wrote on Twitter: "If Tua takes the field tonight, it's a massive step back for concussion care in the NFL. If he has a 2nd concussion that destroys his season or career, every-

one involved will be sued and should lose their jobs, coaches included. We all saw it, even they must know this isn't right."

HOW WAS TAGOVAILOA CLEARED TO RETURN SUNDAY?

Tagovailoa appeared to be disoriented by what the team originally said was a head injury after taking a hard hit from Bills linebacker Matt Milano late in the first half. He missed just three snaps and returned after halftime. Tagovailoa and the team said a back injury was the reason for his instability after the hit and he wasn't in concussion protocol. He was questionable to play on Thursday but started the game.

WHAT IS THE NFL'S CONCUSSION PROTOCOL?

A player who exhibits or reports symptoms or signs suggestive of a concussion or stinger enters protocol. During each game, independent certified athletic trainers (ATC spotters) monitor the players on the field. If they see an impact to the head, they call a timeout and the player must be removed from the game, examined and evaluated. Team trainers, coaches or physicians, teammates, NFL game officials, sideline unaffiliated neurotrauma consultants (UNC) or booth ATCs also can initiate the protocol.

Any player in concussion protocol undergoes a six-step evaluation by a team physician and UNC to determine the severity of the injury and whether or not

they're fit to return to the field. The final step is a neurological evaluation featuring a cervical spine exam, including range of motion/pain, evaluation of speech, observation of gait, eye movements and pupillary exam.

If any elements are positive, inconclusive or suspicious of concussion, the player is escorted to locker room.

In the locker room, a team physician and UNC conducts a full neurological exam and complete NFL Standardized Concussion Assessment Tool.

If abnormal, the player doesn't return to play, undergoes periodic evaluation by a medical team and has a follow-up neurological exam.

The league instituted the system in 2011 after Cleveland Browns quarterback Colt McCoy took a helmet-to-helmet hit in a game and returned without being tested for a concussion. The Browns said that the team's trainers didn't see the hit because they were tending to other players and that no one told them about it.

After the game, McCoy was diagnosed with a concussion.

WHAT IS FENCING RESPONSE?

According to healthline.com, "when a person experiences an impact that's strong enough to cause traumatic brain injury, such as a concussion, their arms often go into an unnatural position." □

Lightning donate \$2 million to Hurricane Ian relief efforts

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — The Tampa Bay Lightning and team owner Jeff Vinik are donating \$2 million toward Hurricane Ian relief efforts. The NHL team announced Friday that \$1 million each will be donated by the Tampa Bay Lightning Foundation and the Vinik Family Foundation. "This is a tragic

situation for many families and communities across the state of Florida, but especially so in the southwest region of the state," Vinik said in a statement released by the team. "In times like these the most important thing we can do is support one another, and we hope this donation will

help families recover and rebuild in the months to come." Ian made landfall Wednesday on Florida's Gulf Coast, south of the Tampa Bay area. The Lightning postponed two home preseason games and moved the club's training camp to Nashville, Tennessee, during the storm. □



Homes are surrounded by flood waters caused by Hurricane Ian, Thursday, Sept. 29, 2022, in Fort Myers, Fla. Climate change added at least 10% more rain to Hurricane Ian, a study prepared immediately after the storm shows.

Associated Press

Charley Hull with 8 birdies posts 64 to take lead in Texas

THE COLONY, Texas (AP) — Charley Hull has forced herself to work a little harder on the putting and she saw it pay off Friday with eight birdies in her round of 7-under 64 to take the early 36-hole lead in The Ascendant LPGA.

Hull seized control with four birdies in a six-hole stretch around the turn and led by two shots over Xiyu "Janet" Lin (68) and Atthaya Thitikul of Thailand, whose eagle-birdie finish gave her a 67. Thitikul can go to No. 1 in the women's world ranking by winning for the second straight week on the LPGA Tour. They played in the morning and caught the better side of the wave at Old American Golf Club with moderate wind. The course remained bouncy, however, making it difficult to take on the pins.

Hull, a 26-year-old from England, managed just fine and relied on her putting. That's what she least likes to practice at home, instead preferring to improve through playing as many as 36 holes a day.

"I just feel like the putter was very strong today," Hull said. "When I was home I was working quite hard on my putting because I felt like that's the boringest part



Charley Hull watches her tee shot on the eighth hole during The Ascendant golf tournament in The Colony, Texas, Friday, Sept. 30, 2022.

Associated Press

of the game to practice. I don't practice it as much as I should, so I've been doing like two hours each day and just trying to fix it." She started on the back nine and with a birdie on the par-5 17th, that sent her on her way to three birdies on the opening four holes of the front nine. Hull finished with two birdies and was at 11-under 131.

"I actually can't really remember much of my round because I was so focused. I didn't know what my score was when I was coming in," Hull said. A five-time Solheim Cup player, Hull is nearly six years removed from her lone LPGA Tour win at the CME Group Championship. She also has three Ladies European Tour wins, the most recent

last fall in the Aramco Team Series in New York. Thitikul won last week in Arkansas, and at age 19 can replace Jin Young Ko at No. 1 in the world by winning. She likely will be no worse than No. 2 after this week if she finishes ahead of Nelly Korda, who opened with a 75. Korda played in the afternoon and her first order of business was to make the cut.

Thitikul has made no secret that Old American doesn't suit her game. She told her team around her at the start of the week she didn't have many expectations. That could be what's helping the Thai teen, who is trying to think less and react to shots. She overcame a double bogey on the par-4 ninth hole and put herself in great position for the weekend with a 40-foot eagle putt on the 17th and a closing birdie.

"When I started, like before first round, I just told myself and my manager, my caddy, that make the cut is good enough for me here on this course," Thitikul said. "It's challenging for me. I think it's so different from last week. It's dry and it's run-out pretty much, and it's so many bunkers.

"I don't think too much on the course. That's why I can play well these two days." Lin led by one after the first round and birdied two of the par 5s.

Lindy Duncan had a 65 and was three shots behind. Lexi Thompson also played in the morning and could only manage a 70, leaving her six shots behind as the American tries to end more than three years without winning on the LPGA. □

Hoskins homers, Phillies end skid in 5-1 win over Nationals

HARVEY VALENTINE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rhys Hoskins hit his 30th home run, Bailey Falter pitched six scoreless innings and the Philadelphia Phillies boosted their lead in the National League wild-card race with a 5-1 win over the Washington Nationals on Friday in the opener of a day-night doubleheader. Philadelphia (84-72) snapped a five-game losing streak and moved a full game ahead of the Milwaukee Brewers for the final NL wild card.

J.T. Realmuto had two hits and stole three bases, giving him 21 steals and 21 home runs. He is the second 20-20 catcher in major

league history after Ivan Rodriguez of the Texas Rangers in 1999 (35 homers, 25 stolen bases).

Falter (6-4) was roughed up for six runs on 10 hits over 3 2/3 innings against the Braves in his last start. He



Philadelphia Phillies' Rhys Hoskins, right, celebrates his home run with Nick Castellanos (8) during the first inning in the first baseball game of a doubleheader against the Washington Nationals, Friday, Sept. 30, 2022, in Washington.

Associated Press

was far better on Friday, allowing just three hits and two walks while striking out six.

The Nationals loaded the base against Seranthony Dominguez with one out in the ninth, but Dominguez struck out Victor Robles and César Hernández grounded out.

The Phillies have defeated the Nationals nine straight times and in 14 of their 16 games this season.

Joey Meneses had two hits for Washington (54-102).

Nationals starter Erick Fedde (6-12) allowed three runs two earned on seven hits in five-plus innings.

Hoskins made it 1-0 on a homer in the first.

Juan Segura had a two-out

RBI single in the fourth. Nick Castellanos reached on an error in the sixth and later scored on Jordan Weems' balk.

With the Nationals within 3-1, Hoskins added an RBI single in a two-run ninth.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Nationals: RHP Cade Cavalli (shoulder inflammation) has resumed throwing on flat ground but won't throw off a mound before the season ends. ... LHP MacKenzie Gore (elbow inflammation) won't make a start before the season ends. Acquired from the Padres in the Juan Soto trade while on the 15-day injured list, Gore had been working toward a late-season appearance. □

Weekly SPECIALS

<p>WAS \$4.57</p>  <p>\$2.85 Each</p> <p>Sprout Brussel 16oz</p>	<p>WAS \$12.57</p>  <p>\$9.14 Per KG</p> <p>Marucha/Top Blade Brasil</p>	<p>WAS \$11.14</p>  <p>\$7.99 Per KG</p> <p>Stoba/Stewbeef Lean Brasil</p>	<p>WAS \$2.88</p>  <p>\$1.71 Each</p> <p>EE Ketchup 24oz</p>	
<p>WAS \$10.85</p>  <p>\$8.57 Per KG</p> <p>Bloemstuk Brasil</p>	<p>WAS \$5.71</p>  <p>\$5.14 Per KG</p> <p>Grapes Red Seedless</p>	<p>WAS \$7.42</p>  <p>\$5.71 Per KG</p> <p>Ginger</p>	<p>WAS \$7.99</p>  <p>\$5.71 Per KG</p> <p>Red Peppers</p>	<p>WAS \$6.17</p>  <p>\$5.14 Each</p> <p>EE Strawberries Frozen 16oz</p>
<p>WAS \$2.49</p>  <p>\$2.28 Each</p> <p>Toufayan Multi Grain Wrap 9" 11oz</p>	<p>WAS \$1.23</p>  <p>\$0.94 100 GR</p> <p>Smoked Pit Ham 28%</p>	<p>WAS \$6.62</p>  <p>\$2.57 Each</p> <p>Sunny D Tangy Original 64oz</p>	<p>WAS \$2.05</p>  <p>\$1.37 Each</p> <p>EE Corn Whole Kernel 15.25oz</p>	<p>WAS \$11.42</p>  <p>\$9.71 Each</p> <p>Nestle Nesquik Instant Choc & Strawberry 38.9oz</p>
<p>DIARY/FROZEN</p> <p>WAS \$11.42</p>  <p>\$8.57 Each</p> <p>Bob Evans Liquid Egg Whites 32oz</p> <p>WAS \$3.99</p>  <p>\$3.42 Each</p> <p>EE Hashbrown Patties 10oz</p>	<p>HBC/CM</p> <p>WAS \$1.57</p>  <p>\$1.14 Each</p> <p>Sence Fruit Garden Handzeep Pompje Assorted</p> <p>WAS \$7.99</p>  <p>\$5.71 Each</p> <p>Do it Toilet Bowl Brushw/Rubber Grip Handle 3pc Set</p>	<p>DELI/BAKERY</p> <p>WAS \$1.37</p>  <p>\$1.19 100 GR</p> <p>Kamijne Koas</p> <p>WAS \$2.00</p>  <p>\$1.71 Each</p> <p>Waldkorn Rustico Wit/Meergranen</p>		

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